

1714

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:

TIE LAN, ET AL.

Serial No. 09/870,239

Filed: May 30, 2001

Attorney Docket No.: 28682/71114

For:

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Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

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) Richard H. Anderson  
) Richard H. Anderson  
) Reg. No. 26,526  
) Attorney for Applicants

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Sir:

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**NOTICE OF RELATED APPLICATION  
ASSIGNED TO EASTMAN CHEMICAL CORPORATION**

This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/207,805, filed May 30, 2000. On May 30, 2001 this Assignee, AMCOL International Corporation, and Eastman Chemical Corporation (Eastman) each filed separate applications, each assigned to different assignees, having essentially identical specifications, but different claims (based on a Joint Development Agreement).

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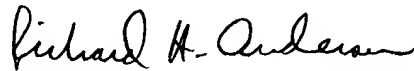
Eastman Chemical Corporation's application (believed to be still pending) is Serial No. 09/870,929, filed May 30, 2001 (also claiming the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/207,805, filed May 30, 2000).

While it is believed that there should be no double patenting issue between the two applications, based on the substantial difference in claim language, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the Eastman application, to give the examiner an opportunity to examine the claims of the Eastman application prior to any action taken in this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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November 5, 2001